

RESOLUTION

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY

9/7/4 '99 APR 21 11:18

WHEREAS, Apalachicola Bay and Franklin County produces delicious and healthy oysters and up to 10% of the oysters produced in America, and

WHEREAS, Oysters and other shellfish are a treasured taste treat for millions of American in every state; and

WHEREAS, The American consumer has always enjoyed a fundamental choice between products of all types; and

WHEREAS, Personal responsibility and care for one's own health and well-being are commonly agreed upon tenets of American life; and

WHEREAS, Important emerging technologies are now making it possible for consumers of oysters and other shellfish products to choose between traditional raw shellfish products and "treated" or pasteurized shellfish products in a competitive free market environment, and

WHEREAS, It is widely accepted by all parties involved that "treated" oysters will both fundamentally change the condition of raw shellfish, and that such treatment raises the wholesale price of oysters from the current price of approximately eight cents apiece by another six to eight cents apiece, and

WHEREAS, It is reasonable to expect in a free market economy that these higher prices will then be passed along to the consumer, resulting in lower demand for oysters, and

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WHEREAS, America's shellfish industry is heavily populated by small self-employed harvesters and leaseholders already operating on limited incomes, and

WHEREAS, Lower consumer demand could further threaten the small shellfish industry and the livelihood of thousands of area residents and families who are dependent on oyster harvesting and processing for their own well-being, and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has been asked to consider new rules which would force costly and unnecessary post-harvest treatment of oysters, placing product from our area at a severe competitive disadvantage on the open market against product from other regions which will not be required to be treated in the same expensive manner, and

WHEREAS, America's oyster and shellfish industry has worked cooperatively and with great success to educate consumers with certain health conditions and risks which may be affected by certain types of shellfish, and

WHEREAS, These education efforts have been highly successful in reducing health impacts when they have been allowed to fully flourish, and

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, our Congressional delegation, and Governor and other state elected officials, and

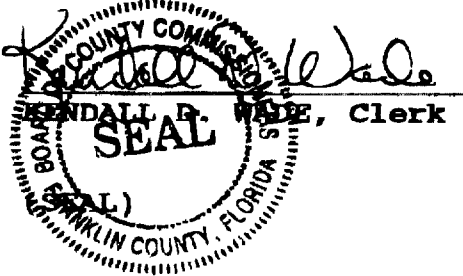
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners does hereby encourage the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to reject these costly and unnecessary rules and

regulation in favor of continuing its successful work with America's shellfish industry toward greater consumer education and awareness, and toward the continuation of a competitive market economy system which has served America's consumers well since the founding of our nation.

This Resolution adopted by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 20th day of April, 1999.

ATTEST:

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



BY: Clarence Williams
CLARENCE WILLIAMS, Chairman

KENDALL WADE
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
33 MARKET STREET, SUITE 203
APALACHICOLA, FL 32320

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 4-21-99 TIME: 10:06 FAX # 301-827-16870
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PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGE(S) TO:

NAME: USFDA Docket Mgmt Branch Rm 1601

COMPANY/DEPARTMENT: _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 4 INCLUDING COVER SHEET

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LEGIBLE, PLEASE CALL ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

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OPERATOR: Amelia Varnes

REMARKS: _____